

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MELVIN SMITH,
Plaintiff,

v.

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., ET AL.,
Defendants.

Case No. 15-cv-01779-YGR

**ORDER REFERRING CASE TO ADR UNIT
FOR ASSESSMENT TELEPHONE
CONFERENCE; VACATING HEARING.**

Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 16-8 and ADR Local Rule 2-3, the Court refers this foreclosure-related action to the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Unit for a telephone conference to assess this case's suitability for mediation or a settlement conference. Plaintiff and defendants' counsel shall participate in a telephone conference, to be scheduled by the ADR Unit as soon as possible but no later than **August 7, 2015**.

Plaintiff and defendants' counsel shall be prepared to discuss the following subjects:

- (1) Identification and description of claims and alleged defects in loan documents.
- (2) Prospects for loan modification.
- (3) Prospects for settlement.

The parties need not submit written materials to the ADR Unit for the telephone conference.

In preparation for the telephone conference, plaintiff shall do the following:

- (1) Review relevant loan documents and investigate the claims to determine whether they have merit.
- (2) If plaintiff is seeking a loan modification to resolve all or some of the claims, plaintiff shall prepare a current, accurate financial statement and gather all of the information and documents customarily needed to support a loan modification

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request. Further, plaintiff shall immediately notify defendants' counsel of the request for a loan modification.

- (3) Provide counsel for defendants with information necessary to evaluate the prospects for loan modification, in the form of a financial statement, worksheet, or application customarily used by financial institutions.

In preparation for the telephone conference, counsel for defendants shall do the following:

- (1) If defendants are unable or unwilling to do a loan modification after receiving notice of plaintiff's request, counsel for defendants shall promptly notify plaintiff to that effect.
- (2) Arrange for a representative of each defendant with full settlement authority to participate in the telephone conference.


The ADR Unit will notify the parties of the date and time the telephone conference will be held. After the telephone conference, the ADR Unit will advise the Court of its recommendation for further ADR proceedings.

In light of this referral, the hearing on the pending motion to dismiss (Dkt. No. 17) presently set for July 28, 2015 is **VACATED** until further notice. Thus, the motion to appear telephonically at the hearing (Dkt. No. 24) is **DENIED** as moot. The Court notes, however, that personal appearances are typically required.

This Order terminates Docket Number 24.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 21, 2015


YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

cc: ADR Unit